

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 140035Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1667

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5077

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AS CI PINT

SUBJ: LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS PROTEST COUP AGAINST

ALLENDS IN CHILE

1. TELEGRAM PROTESTING AGAINST OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE WAS SENT TO CHILEAN AMBASSADOR RIETHMULLER SEPT 13 BY 44 OUT OF THE 93 LABOR MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT. THE TELEGRAM, INITIATED BY THE LEFT-LEANING SENATOR WHEELDON (WESTERN AUSTRALIA), WAS SIGNED BY BOTH SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING SEVERAL MINISTERS (UHREN, CASS, EVERINGHAM, ENDERBY, JOHNSON, BRYANT, HAYDEN, AND SENATOR CAVANAGH).

2. TEXT OF TELEGRAM AS FOLLOWS: QTE WE THE UNDER-SIGNED MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY WISH TO ADVISE YOU OF OUR HORROR AND DISMAY AT THE VIOLENT, ILLEGAL OVERTHROW OF THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND THE TRAGIC DEATH OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE. WE SHALL MAKE WHATEVER EFFORTS WE CAN TO HELP THE CHILEAN PEOPLE REGAIN THEIR FREEDOM. END QTE.

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3. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAS SO FAR MADE NO DIRECT COMMENT ON THE EVENTS IN CHILE, THOUGH HE TOLD PARLIAMENT ON SEPT 13 THAT HE HAD ASKED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES IN LATIN AMERICA TO REPORT ON REACTIONS TO THE OVERTHROW, INDICATING THAT LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS OF THE MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING GOA VIEW OF THE MATTER. OBVIOUSLY TELEGRAM SIGNED BY NEARLY HALF OF ALP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WILL HAVE IMPACT ON GOA POLICY. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVY BUT EDITORIAL COMMENT FAIRLY LIGHT. INEVITABLY, THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT, PARTICULARLY TRIGGERED BY PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. KNEW THE COUP WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE, SOME 48 HOURS BEFORE THE EVENT.

4. IN SEPTTEL USIS IS SENDING TEXT OF COMMENTS ON COUP BY DR. CLAUDIO VELIZ, FORMER ASSOCIATE AND CLASSMATE OF DR. ALLENDE WHO IS NOW TEACHING AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY IN MELBOURNE. VELIZ STATES THAT NO CIA OR ITT CONSPIRACY NEEDED TO EXPLAIN COUP, ADDING IT WAS SIMPLY REVOLT AGAINST ECONOMIC UNREST CAUSED BY INFLATION AND THE LOSS OF FREEDOM THROUGH POLITICAL POLICE INTIMIDATION.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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